

In The Claims:

1-31. (Cancelled)

32. (Currently Amended) A method of improving decreased bone mass in a human comprising: providing a pharmaceutical preparation containing as an active ingredient an osteoclast inhibitory factor (OCIF) protein encoded by SEQ ID NO:6 and administering the preparation containing said OCIF protein so as to effect the improvement in decreased bone mass.

33. (Currently Amended) A method of using an OCIF protein for improvement of decreased bone mass in a human comprising: providing a pharmaceutical preparation for introducing an osteoclast inhibitory factor (OCIF) protein encoded by SEQ ID NO:6 into said human, and administering said preparation to said human so as to effect said improvement of said decreased bone mass.

34. (Currently Amended) A method of increasing levels of an osteoclast inhibitory factor (OCIF) protein in a human comprising administering to said human said OCIF protein encoded by SEQ ID NO:6, wherein such administration results in an increase in the level of said OCIF protein and wherein the increase in said OCIF protein in the human results in increased bone density.

35. (Currently Amended) A method of improving decreased bone mass in a human comprising: providing a pharmaceutical preparation containing as an active ingredient an osteoclast inhibitory factor (OCIF) protein and administering the preparation containing said OCIF protein so as to effect the improvement in decreased bone mass.

36. (Currently Amended) A method of using an osteoclast inhibitory factor (OCIF) protein for improvement of decreased bone mass in a human comprising: providing a pharmaceutical preparation for introducing said OCIF protein into said human, and administering said preparation to said human so as to effect said improvement of said decreased bone mass.

37. (Currently Amended) A method of increasing levels of an osteoclast inhibitory

factor (OCIF) protein in a human comprising administering to said human said OCIF protein, wherein such administration results in an increase in the level of said OCIF protein and wherein the increase in said OCIF protein in the human results in increased bone density.